

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 144405

44

ORIGIN EUR-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

DRAFTED BY: EUR/SOV: RMILES

APPROVED BY: EUR/SOV: BZOOK

----- 007979

R 032306Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 3706

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 144405

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 15798 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BUCHAREST  
BUDAPEST HONG KONG LENINGRAD LONDON NATO PEKING PRAGUE SOFIA  
TAIPEI TOKYO WARSAW CINCPAC 27 JUN 74

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 15798

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR, US, FR

SUBJECT: VIKTOR LOUIS ARTICLE ON SINO-SOVIET TENSION

REF: (A) MOSCOW 10029; (B) HONG KONG 7219

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EXCLUSIVE ARTICLE BY SOVIET JOURNALIST  
VIKTOR LOUIS IN FRANCE SOIR EVENING OF JUNE 26 STRESSES  
TENSION ON SINO-SOVIET BORDER. IN RAISING POSSIBILITY  
THAT SOVIET HELICOPTER CREW MAY BE TRIED BY CHINESE ALONG  
LINES OF GARY POWERS TRIAL IN MOSCOW IN 1960, LOUIS  
CLAIMS MOSCOW PAPERS SEEM TO BE PREPARING THEIR READERS  
FOR THE WORST BY RECALLING MARCH 1969 BORDER SKIRMISHES.  
END SUMMARY.

2. LOUIS LEADS OFF BY NOTING THAT SINO-SOVIET BORDER  
REGION IS FAR FROM CALM. HOWEVER, HE CITES A  
LITERATURNAYA GAZETA CORRESPONDENT'S PRAISE OF SOVIET  
FRONTIER GUARDS FOR THEIR RESISTANCE TO CHINESE PROVOCATIONS.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 144405

TIONS AND SUCCESS IN AVOIDING ACTUAL CONFLICTS. THE

CORRESPONDENT IS QUOTED AS CONCLUDING THAT SOVIET POLICY IS "TO STAY CALM IN THE FACE OF FRONTIER VIOLATIONS BY THE CHINESE."

3. LOUIS GOES ON TO SAY THAT INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED NEVERTHELESS AND HE THEN PROCEEDS TO DISCUSS THAT OF THE SOVIET HELICOPTER. HE RIDICULES THE CHINESE CONTENTION THAT ITS MISSION WAS ONE OF ESPIONAGE BY ALLUDING TO SOVIET SATELLITE CAPABILITIES. "CAN ONE CONCLUDE THAT SOVIET SATELLITES ARE FLYING OVER CHINA?" HE ASKS, TO WHICH HE ANSWERS, "MAYBE." TURNING HIS ATTENTION TO THE FATE OF THE SOVIET CREW, LOUIS WRITES THAT "ACCORDING TO MOSCOW RUMORS, THEY MAY HAVE BEEN DISPLAYED PUBLICLY IN A MOBILE CAGE." COMMENT. THIS STATEMENT IS GUARDED AND NOT STATED AS FACT, CONTRARY TO VERSION NOTED REFTEL B AND IN LE FIGARO COMMENTARY WHICH HAS LOUIS DECLARING THAT THE CREW "HAS BEEN EXHIBITED ALL ACROSS CHINA IN IRON CAGES." END COMMENT.

4. LOUIS CLAIMS THAT A NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARE PREDICTING A TRIAL ON THE PATTERN OF THAT HELD FOR GARY POWERS IN MOSCOW IN 1960. IT IS AT THIS POINT THAT HE SAYS, "AS IF WANTING TO PREPARE THEIR READERS FOR THE WORST, MOSCOW NEWSPAPERS, IN TREATING THE SUBJECT, RARELY FAIL

TO RECALL THE SINO SOVIET BORDER INCIDENTS OF MARCH 1969." HE NOTES POINTEDLY THAT THE TOMBS OF FALLEN SOVIET SOLDIERS ARE CARED FOR WITH AS MUCH ATTENTION AS THOSE OF THE SOVIET VICTIMS OF SINO-SOVIET FRONTIER INCIDENTS IN 1929.

5. THE BALANCE OF THE ARTICLE IS DEVOTED TO THE SOVIET PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CHINESE. HE CONTRASTS VOA USE OF TERM "CHINESE PEOPLES REPUBLIC" WITH SOVIET MEDIA WHICH REFER ONLY TO "CHINA" OR "PEKING," THE LATTER OF WHICH IS REGARDED AS A SYNONYM FOR "UNFRIENDLY" BY THE AVERAGE RUSSIAN. HE NOTES THE PROBLEMS FOR SOVIETS DESIRING TO VISIT CHINA AND QUOTES OLEG BORISOV IN IZVESTIYA AS CLAIMING THERE WERE 900 ANTI-SOVIET ARTICLES LAST YEAR IN THE CHINESE PRESS -- TWICE AS MANY AS IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 144405

THE PREVIOUS YEAR. ON THE OTHER HAND, LOUIS ASSERTS THAT SOVIET RADIO STATIONS BROADCAST PROGRAMS ON CHINA 24 HOURS A DAY "WHICH ARE NOT FRIENDLY IN THE LEAST." CITING WESTERN OBSERVERS, LOUIS SAYS THIS CAMPAIGN IS PAYING OFF, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE NON-ETHNIC CHINESE POPULATION IN SINKIANG. ACCORDING TO HIM, THE CHINESE REPLY BY CLAIMING THAT RUSSIA OCCUPIES 500,000 SQUARE KILOMETERS OF SINKIANG AND COVETS THE REST. HE ENDS

THE ARTICLE BY DESCRIBING THE MOSCOW BORDER-GUARD MUSEUM WHERE THE GUIDE SPEAKS OF MAOIST PROVOCATIONS AGAINST SOVIET SOVEREIGNTY IN 1969 AND POINTS TO RIFLES OF SOVIET MANUFACTURE TAKEN FROM FALLEN CHINESE SOLDIERS, GIVEN TO THEM GRATIS BY THE SOVIETS DURING A HAPPIER TIME.

6. COMMENT. IN A DESPATCH FROM MOSCOW JUNE 26, LE FIGARO CORRESPONDENT CLAIMS VIKTOR LOUIS "ORCHESTRATED" THE DEPARTURE OF ILCHEV FOR PEKING, WHICH SUGGESTS THERE MAY BE OTHER ARTICLES BY HIM ON THIS SUBJECT. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY MOSCOW'S ASSESSMENT THAT THIS ARTICLE IS PART OF PROPAGANDA EFFORT TO BUTTRESS ILCHEV'S POSITION AS HE RESUMES THE BORDER TALKS. CHOICE OF FRANCE SOIR, ONE OF FRANCE'S MOST WIDELY READ NEWSPAPERS, FOR ITS PUBLICATION, HOWEVER, SUGGESTS SPECIFIC FRENCH ANGLE MAY ALSO BE INVOLVED. WE HAVE HEARD THAT SOVIET EMBASSY HAS BEEN CONCERNED OVER POSSIBILITY OF SOME SWING IN POLICY OF NEW GISCARD GOVERNMENT TOWARD PEKING. ARTICLE MAY THUS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO HELP BUILD UP FAVORABLE SOVIET IMAGE AT EXPENSE OF CHINESE. THAT IMAGE COMES THROUGH IN THE ARTICLE AS ONE OF PATIENCE COMBINED WITH FIRM RESOLVE TO RESPOND TO THE CHINESE IN KIND.  
STONE UNQTE SISCO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PROPAGANDA, ANTISOVIET, SINO SOVIET DISPUTES, PRISONERS WELFARE, BORDER INCIDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 JUL 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE144405  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** EUR/SOV: RMILES  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740177-1112  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740776/aaaacmvt.tel  
**Line Count:** 139  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** (A) MOSCOW 10029; (B) HONG KONG 7219  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <24 JUN 2002 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VIKTOR LOUIS ARTICLE ON SINO-SOVIET TENSION  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CH, UR, US, FR, (LOUIS, VIKTOR)  
**To:** MOSCOW  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005